The Centaurian Sentinel™

*Dedicated to J. Michael Straczynski's television series Babylon 5.*

**Data File 32 • April 1997** **BABYLON 5 EDITION**

# PETER DAVID, AND THE ART OF WRITING FOR B5

The interview for this article was conducted at WOLF 359, Blackpool, England, by Tom Bateman.

***The Centaurian Sentinel:*** How did you become involved in BABYLON 5?

***Peter David:*** When the show looked like it was going to be going forward, I met Joe Straczynski at a San Diego Comic Con. Joe, who liked my work, told me that should things go to a second season, they would definitely be interested in having me work on a script. Which is exactly what happened. They assigned me a story, in which I was basically told, "Londo's three wives, collectively known as 'Pestilence, Famine and Death', show up on the station and cause problems." That was pretty much the extent that I was given to deal with. From there I built "Soul Mates," and it was a bumpy ride; because Joe, in conjunction with Harlan, had to re-educate me not to think like *Star Trek*. It was a rut that I had gotten into and hadn't even realized. So that my first attempts at producing a story [for B5] were far too much like *Star Trek*. In that I had labored mightily to accomplish something that need not be accomplished. Namely, that the status quo, at the end of my script, was exactly the same as it was at the beginning of the script, which was typical *Star Trek*. However, that's not what BABYLON 5 is all about.

Harlan recommended that I watch a movie called *The Women*, and I also came to the realization that in order for my story to work to B5 standards, I had to have major changes in the status quo by the end of the episode. There had to be something dramatically different, not just artificially. Consequently, when I came up with the notion that Londo summons his three wives because he is going to divorce two of them, then at the end he [actually] divorces the two; this is a major shake-up. That's the kind of thing that helped sell the script.

Joe was so pleased with "Soul Mates" that he invited me to pitch for doing another episode. I ran an idea past him which involved Garibaldi being in a shooting incident where he shot a Minbari warrior. Joe recommended that we change it to Sheridan, because of his extensive history with the Minbari would give it a very different and much livelier dynamic. That is exactly what I did, and that's where "There All the Honor Lies" came from.

I'm really rather pleased and flattered that, in an interview, Joe said that of the 22 episodes of the second season, 21 of them came from his log lines.

That meant that there was one that did not come from that source. Well, I know which one that was, it was mine. So I am very pleased that he liked it enough to make that major exception.

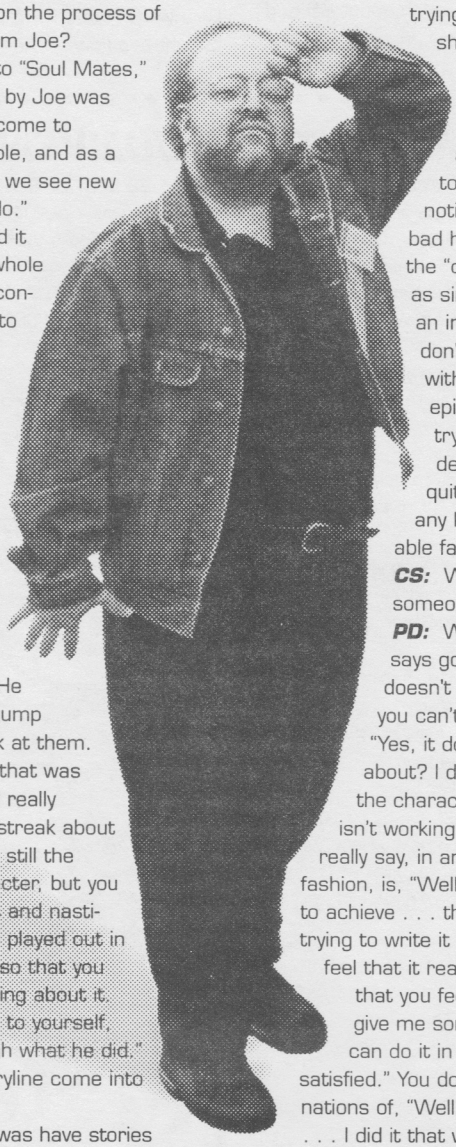
***CS:*** Could you elaborate on the process of taking an "assignment" from Joe?

***PD:*** Actually, going back to "Soul Mates," the original direction given by Joe was that "Londo's three wives come to Babylon 5 and cause trouble, and as a result of their showing up, we see new and different sides of Londo." That was my mandate, and it really dovetails into Joe's whole philosophy of actions and consequences. That we want to see different sides and different shades of Londo as a result of the wives. To a certain extent, we really did, in that Londo was, at the time, a very humorous character; but when you think about what he did to these women, it was pretty damn sadistic! He brought them out there and said, "two out of three of you are gone!" He really made these women jump through hoops, to get back at them. That was pretty vindictive, that was pretty nasty. This [episode] really helped to underscore this streak about Londo, although there was still the humor implicit in the character, but you also saw the real darkness and nastiness in him. Though it was played out in such a humorous fashion, so that you were left smiling and laughing about it. It's only later that you think to yourself, "Wow, that was really rough what he did."

***CS:*** How did the Talia storyline come into play in "Soul Mates"?

***PD:*** What I wanted to do was have stories that contrasted. To a certain extent, the underlying theme was people trying to take control of their relationships, and trying to send them in specific directions. So you have Londo taking control of his relations with his wives, who had all been thrust upon him via arranged marriages; now he was taking control of that. By the same token, in contrast, Stoner was trying to take control of the relationship that he had with Talia, he is the direct opposite of Londo, whose trying to get rid of the wives, while Stoner is trying to get her back.

Even the humorous sub-plot with Delenn, goes to that basic core concept of control. Delenn is trying to manage her relationship with her new body, she has a new body, there is no mistake about it. She has changed inside and out; and she's trying to manage that. Having the notion of Delenn having a bad hair day, relates back to the "control," even something as simple as hair care can be an incredible challenge if you don't have the tools to deal with it. So that was what the episode was about, people trying to take control and dealing with things and not quite being able to do it in any kind of proper or acceptable fashion.



**Peter David**
**Scriptwriter for two BABYLON 5 episodes.**

photo ©1997 Michael Zmuda

***CS:*** What is it like playing in someone else's universe?

***PD:*** Well basically, what Joe says goes. If he says, "No, this doesn't work for the characters," you can't come back and say, "Yes, it does! What are you talking about? I don't care if you created the characters!" If he says, "This isn't working;" the most that you can really say, in any kind of reasonable fashion, is, "Well, this is what I was trying to achieve . . . this is what my goal was in trying to write it this way . . . if you don't feel that it reaches the goal in a way that you feel comfortable with, sure, give me some guidance as to how I can do it in a way that you will be satisfied." You don't need to go into explanations of, "Well, I did it this way because . . . I did it that way because . . ." who gives a damn? It doesn't matter "why" you made that choice, it doesn't work to the expectation of the person whose opinion is the only one that counts. So, therefore, you work with him to get it up to snuff.

***CS:*** How was the process different doing "There All the Honor Lies"? Being that it was a story you

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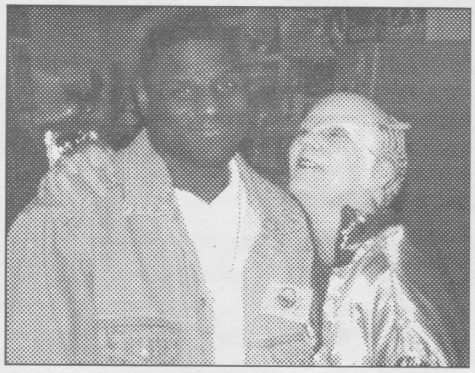
# VULKON '97

**March 21-23 1997, Pasadena Center, Pasadena, CA**
**B5 Guest: Patricia Tallman**

My husband, Bill, son, Chris, and I are part of the Starfleet group, USS Nighthawk. For the past four years we have been doing con security for Vulkon up in Baltimore, Maryland. This year the guests were Patricia Tallman of BABYLON 5, David Prowse (Darth Vader) of *Star Wars*, and Armin Shimmerman of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.

All were great and very informative about their work. I most enjoyed Patricia Tallman, or Pat, as she told me to call her when we talked personally. She was the most vibrant, excited person in person, and told much about B5 and her stunt work which she has done for many years. She mentioned that she was Laura Dern's stunt double in *Jurassic Park*. She also spoke about the charity she supports called the Pennylane Home for Abused Children. If you bought even one of her photos which she sold herself, all the money went to this charity – this made you feel her autograph was extra special on the picture.



photos ©1997 Pamela Truesdale

**Above: Pam with Patricia Tallman at Vulkon '97's dance. Right: Pam as Delenn embarrasses a friend.**

Saturday evening I made myself up as first season Delenn, and entered the masquerade. Even though I had to work this convention I did have a good time. **Pamela K. Truesdale**

# CENTAURIAN SENTINEL CONVENTION LIST

**DISCLAIMER:** This listing is provided only as a convenience and does not constitute an endorsement or any guarantee (either of guests, dates, or costs) by myself or ***The Centaurian Sentinel***. Contact the convention organizers for current information, guest lists and to confirm that an event will be held. As a courtesy, all requests by mail should include a SASE for a response; for phone calls please remember to take into account time zones so that you call at a reasonable hour for them. Please send information on additional conventions, updated information to: wandrew@aol.com, wandrew@compuserve.com or to W Andrew York; POB 2307; Universal City TX 78148

May 9-11 MARCON 32; Hyatt Regency; COLUMBUS OH. Info: PO Box 141414, Columbus OH 43214; (614) 475-8181; info@marcon.org; http://www.marcon.org.
B5 Guests: J MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

May 9-11 FEDERATION CONVENTION, Maritim Hotel, BONN GERMANY. Info: (0)821/219 1936; http://www.eject.com/startrek/stce
B5 Guests: MIRA FURLAN

May 13-23 SCI-FI SEA CRUISE; depart Key West FL. Info: POB 936135; Margate FL 33093; 561-637-4430; whocruiser@aol.com; http://www.emi.net/~pltech/FPC/cruise.html
B5 Guest: MIRA FURLAN

May 31-Jun 1 SCI-FI DREAMIN'; Lycoming College; WILLIAMSPORT PA. Info: 1738 East Third #197; Williamsport PA 17701; mutchler@csrlink.net
B5 Guest: JASON CARTER

May 30-Jun 1 THUNDERCON 7; Clarion Hotel; OKLAHOMA CITY OK. Info: POB 892545; Oklahoma City OK 73189; 405-692-7035; mdmoery@icon.net
B5 Guest: RICHARD BIGGS

Jun 3-6 WESTERCON; Sheraton Hotel; SEATTLE WA. Info: POB 47696; Atlanta GA 30362-0696; 770-925-0115; http://www.dragoncon.org
B5 Guest: PETER DAVID

Jun 21 CREATION; Westchester County Center, NEW YORK NY. Info: 411 N Central #300; Glendale CA 91203; 818-409-0960.
B5 Guest: CLAUDIA CHRISTIAN

Jun 21-22 BEST OF BOTH WORLDS; Masonic Centre; SYDNEY AUSTRALIA. Info: POB 797; Fairfield New South Wales 2165 AUSTRALIA; 02 9523 8385
B5 Guests: JEFFREY WILLERTH; JIM LOCKETT

Jun 28-29 GENESIS CON '97; Holiday Inn; NEW CUMBERLAND PA. Info: POB 628; Boiling Springs PA 17007
B5 Guest: RICHARD BIGGS

Jul 3-6 WESTERCON 50; Downtown Sheraton; SEATTLE WA. Info: POB 283; Seattle WA 98111.
B5 Guest: J MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

Jul 5-6 JUMPGATE '97; Hotel Victor; DUBLIN IRELAND. Info: 18 Watermill Road; Raheny Dublin 5 IRELAND; jumpgate@indigo.ie
B5 Guests: MIRA FURLAN; STEPHEN FURST; WALTER KOENIG

Jul 11-13 SHORE LEAVE; Marriott Inn; HUNT VALLEY MD. Info: POB 6809; Towson MD 21285; 410-821-5563; shoreleave@aol.com; http://members.aol.com/shoreleave/index.htm
B5 Guests: PETER DAVID; TIM DEHAAS

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## PETER continued from page 1

had pitched, vice a log line that JMS had given you ["Soul Mates"].

***PD:*** Oddly enough, we were really short on time, so I didn't get to have as much involvement in the rewrite as I would have liked, but that's the breaks of TV. What essentially happened was that Joe did the rewrite of that script, his needs and involvement were much more conspicuous than with "Soul Mates", because he had overall arc storylines that he had to deal with. The whole storyline with Kosh and the singing monks . . . that was all Joe's, absolutely 100% Joe.

***CS:*** Did that surprise you?

***PD:*** Caught ME by surprise! [but] Joe had needs that were dictated by his arc. He needed to have a story in which one of the sub-plots involved Sheridan learning something from Kosh. So, the problem was, if we had had the time, Joe would have sat down with me and said, "Okay, what we need is a storyline involving this and that . . ." they didn't have the time, so Joe just sat down and pounded out the rewrite by himself.

Consequently, when the Kosh storyline was inserted in, other things had to go. For example, several scenes between Sheridan and his lawyer were dropped; that storyline kinda vanishes after the end of the second act. The comments that I have gotten from people are like, "Well, we really liked the stuff with the monks, but boy! . . . the storyline with the lawyer really seemed to go nowhere." Well, the reason it didn't go anywhere was that it vanished to make room for the monks. Again, that's the way the cookie crumbles. Someone who is not a professional writer, might get very upset about that, but I don't; it's Joe's show and I know that he has to fill the needs of the direction of the series.

To a certain extent, part of what underscores it for me is my own involvement with *Space Cases*. We had a script come in from an outside writer, that simply did not work within the context of our show. I did a stem to stern rewrite on that episode, and now I feel that it was one of our best episodes. It doesn't have my name on it, but that's fine, I didn't want to stick my name on it.

Joe's policy is that even if he does a lot of rewriting on a script, he doesn't put his name on it because he doesn't want to fall into a trap of deciding, ". . . did I, or did I not, do enough to put my name on it?" Just look at your average episode of *Star Trek*.

***CS:*** Oh, yeah. Written by . . . Teleplay by . . . Story by . . . .

***PD:*** Exactly. Three, four, five names . . . . He doesn't want it to look that way, he doesn't want that for his series, [because] he has too much respect for his writers to do that. So, "There All the Honor Lies" is purely under my name, but as far as I am concerned, that was really much more of a collaboration between Joe and I than "Soul Mates" was.

***CS:*** How did your previous writing experience, with *Star Trek* and comics prepare you to write for BABYLON 5?

***PD:*** It's just a matter of becoming a better writer as you go. Certainly comic books, in particular, were helpful, because it teaches you to think in a visual way. When you are writing for television, you want to try and come up with things that have sort of a visual kick to them. Particularly when you are doing secondary plots, you want to have something which has a visual punch to it; especially if you are doing other things that are heavy drama.

So, when you are doing "Soul Mates", and it's the wives or the Talia/Stoner plot, that's heavy person to person drama. In contrast, I wanted to do something visual, so what did I do? I destroyed Ambassador Delenn's hair. I think it was effective in ways I had not anticipated.

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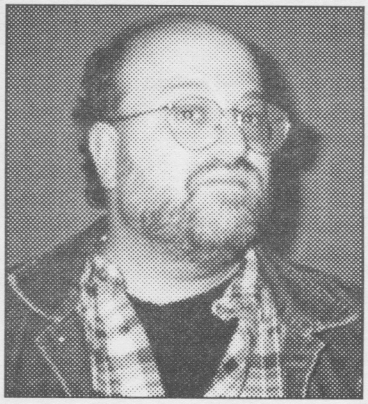


**Peter David on stage at Chicago Comicon with his daughter Ariel (left), and at Wolf 359 (right).**

In "There All the Honor Lies", you have Sheridan shooting a Minbari, which is visual, but after that it's basically all talking, same with the Vir story. So to do something visual, you merchandise Babylon 5!!! That whole bit where the guy takes the mask off his face . . . .

I have to give credit where credit is due, I came up with the notion that Ivanova walks into the shop and she's talking to a Drazi, who then pulls off his head and it's a person under there. What gave me that idea was that in between takes, they always say, "Okay, Heads Off!" All the extras pull off their heads so that they don't sweat to death – so, I put that in the script. Bill Mumy suggested the topper, in which Ivanova turns to a human being, who then takes his head off and its a Drazi underneath. I thought that was a hysterical capper.

***CS:*** Who is your favorite character?

***PD:*** My favorite character, hmmmm . . . Lennier. LENNIER!!!!! LENNIER IS MY FAVORITE, BILL!!! LENNIER IS GOD!!! THIS WHOLE SHOW SHOULD BE ABOUT LENNIER!!!

Who is my favorite character [seriously]? I have a real fondness for Delenn, partially because I just adore Mira. It depends on what I want to do; if I want to do straight up drama, I would love to focus on Londo; and Sheridan, if I want to do heroics. If I want to do comedy, I'll go for Vir or I will go for Ivanova. Claudia is a hysterical comedienne, and she did so well in "Soul Mates", that I gave her the very funny stuff and all the great lines in "There All the Honor Lies". I gave her all those lines because I was so impressed with her comedic abilities.

***CS:*** Do you think you might write any BABYLON 5 novels?

***PD:*** I'll give you the answer I always give. For years, I wrote *Star Trek* novels and the most asked question I got was, "Are you ever going to write for the TV series?" Now, I have written two, count 'em, TWO episodes of BABYLON 5, and what do all the fans ask . . . "ARE YOU GONNA WRITE A NOVEL?!"

I don't know, maybe. I haven't given it a lot of thought, I'd rather write for the TV show again, to be perfectly honest, but we'll see what comes.

***CS:*** Because of your experience in working in both the BABYLON 5 and *Star Trek* universes, what do you think B5 is doing differently, or better, than what is going on with the current *Star Trek* shows?

***PD:*** The mindset that I was trapped in, when I first took a stab at writing a B5 episode, and what I think that most fans getting really frustrated about with *Star Trek*, particularly *The Next Generation*, is that sense that things didn't change. That by the end of one episode it was the same as it was at the beginning of the episode. There was no overall vision, no overall concept. With BABYLON 5, you are basically seeing a novel, it's the difference between episodic television and a novel. Episodic television, by definition, has to be such that the shows can be run in any order and it makes no difference at all.

With BABYLON 5, it's a much tougher sell. You have a beginning, middle, and an end; the story builds, the characters change and evolve and there is resolution. It's like asking what's the difference between a novel and a Warner Bros. cartoon. Not to diminish *Star Trek*, but essentially, Bugs Bunny is still the same at the end as he was at the beginning, perhaps a little bit more triumphant, but that's it. The characters on *The Next Generation* simply didn't change; sometimes there was slow, very moderate change. There was some change with Worf, a smidge of change with Picard, some with Data, but basically, these characters are recognizably the same as they were at the beginning.

For instance (on B5), Londo is not at all what he was like at the beginning. There is such drastic change in the characters that it almost makes them unrecognizable. Yet, you saw how all that happened, and how that progressed, and THAT'S drama.

**Tom Bateman**

# I-CON

**April 4-6, 1997, Stony Brook, NY.**
**BABYLON 5 Related Guests: J. Michael Straczynski, Harlan Ellison, Michael O'Hare, and Peter David.**

It was my great fortune and thrill to be able to attend this con, because a special friend of mine helped me to go by providing transportation.

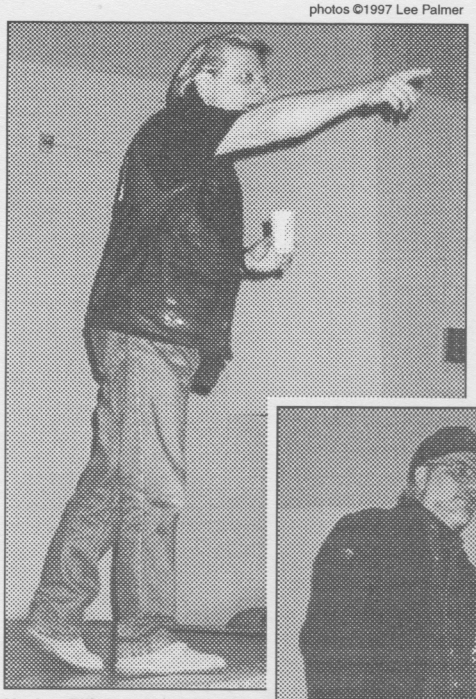
I was able to meet J. Michael Straczynski, have him sign autographs, and exchange a few words with him. I found him to be cordial, with great forbearance and patience. I was attempting to have a shot taken with him, and the camera wouldn't click – and yet he didn't mind. I even made a gaff, twice, by telling him, "God bless you," although he is an atheist. But he even tolerated that. It was constantly on my mind not to say it, and maybe that's why I said it. In any case, it was quite an experience to meet a truly admired person in my eyes.

He appeared twice at his own presentations, and also twice on panel discussions, which didn't quite come as advertised. Harlan Ellison was on both of them. Need I say more? The Enfant Terrible of the sci-fi and literary world – he is too much! At those we heard about some embarrassing moments of the panelists, and JMS related an awkward high school reunion story. Harlan pretty much dominated the proceedings.

I was able to attend both presentations, and on Saturday, it was so dramatic. There was shown a BABYLON 5 highlight tribute video which I found extremely moving, tears were just pouring down my face. As the video faded from the screen overhead, JMS entered, and as he hit the stage, everyone in the place gave him a huge standing ovation. The film just brought down the house. He accepted it graciously, and went on to tell the tale of when Andreas Katsulas and Peter Jurasik arranged with an audience at a con in California to hold their applause when he appeared on stage, which they did to his great consternation. When it was revealed who did it he plotted his revenge. Which was that he wrote a scene, which he said would appear, when G'Kar would turn into a woman and have . . . a-hem . . . relations with Londo. He had elaborately plotted this, and had all most upset about it, except for some of the crew who volunteered their time for nothing to film it. He had Andreas going nuts, but it was revealed to be revenge – and it did make its point.

JMS went on both days to show some pretty dramatic scenes from upcoming episodes. Get ready for some seriously intense situations coming up. All I can say is brace yourselves, especially fans of Michael Garibaldi. He said that beginning with either episode #415 or 416, things will get eight times more intense than "Severed Dreams" was. There were a couple of lighter scenes we saw, but, some pretty dark scenes too. He also said that there will be no word on a fifth season until June or July. So, everyone, write your local stations, and let them know that you want a fifth.

photos ©1997 Lee Palmer

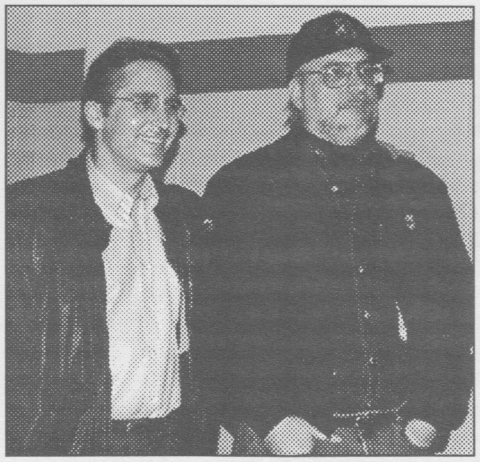


**Harlan Ellison and J. Michael Straczynski lit-up the stage at I-Con this year.**

We also saw blooper reels and they were very funny. Some of the stuff is priceless. The classic of course is when Bruce Boxleitner calls into his link and says, "Medlab, this is Sinclair." Then a beat hits and everyone cannot believe what they just heard, and then they crack-up, big time. Bruce bends over double and is so embarrassed. But, that is the biggest of them. There are many hilarious moments to see on these reels.

photo ©1997 Sandra Bruckner

**Michael O'Hare and JMS do autographs, as Kathryn Drennan looks on.**



JMS took questions from the audience, and many of them were about the fifth season, which he had no knowledge of. Others dealt with merchandising tie-ins and he has said that he doesn't like the tail wagging the dog. He did refer to the 10" dolls coming out and the recent bookmarks put out by Antioch Publishing, which he praised. He handles questions and repartee quite well. He said it wasn't easy for him to do, as he is basically shy, but you'd never know he was, he is most assured on stage.

The whole experience was just incredible. I never have been able to meet one of my most admired people, such as John Lennon or Gene Roddenberry. But in this case I did. I got to meet someone whose ideas and thoughts have reached out and touched me in great ways. Someone who has effected my life in great ways, and may have even, in some nights recently, saved it.

Which was significant when I saw Michael O'Hare. I'd gotten his autograph earlier in the day – he just seemed a bit restrained and wan to me. He was most sweet and gracious, and although I am at heart a Boxleitner/Sheridan person, I was most touched by his gentle demeanor, and was a little worried that he appeared ill. Having been there recently, I could identify.

I attended his Q&A sessions held Sunday afternoon, and he did that for about 45 minutes, and again seemed so sweet, I was glad I got the opportunity to see him. As he walked out on stage he threw candy to the audience. I got to answer some questions and a few of them were:

**Q:** How did he get along with Bruce Boxleitner?

**A:** Fine, said he is a great guy and they seemed to make a good team. He said maybe they will have their own show :-)

**Q:** What were his thoughts as he was filming the poignant last scene as Sinclair in "War Without End", part 2?

**A:** He was thinking goodbye to the series.

**Q:** What were his thoughts about Andreas Katsulas as an actor.

**A:** He though he was great and learned a lot from watching him be G'Kar on the show.

Then came a most interesting part for me. I knew that he lives here in NYC and I just had an instinct that he liked museums. I asked him and yes, he does, he replied. I then played a hunch, which proved true, when I asked him his favorite artist, and he replied, "Van Gogh." I exclaimed, "I knew it!" He even said he once put his facial cheek up against a Van Gogh in a museum in Boston (lucky he wasn't caught). He is also a student of the Method acting, another hunch I had about him.

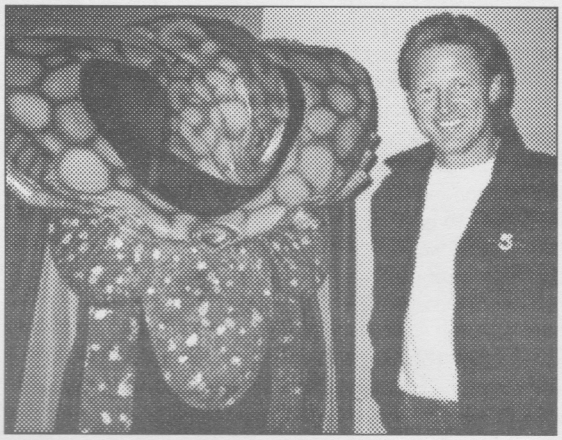
Other questions dealt with a possible return to the show (doubtful) and where he grew up (the South Side of Chicago). It seemed to go pretty fast. I was glad to have seen him and I hope that he is okay, as he did seem a little exhausted.

So, these are just a few highlights and observations on my part. I had a great time. But, more importantly, I was just totally thrilled with meeting someone I have tons of admiration for, one J. Michael Straczynski. It was a thrill of my life.

**Connie Colvin**

# THE HOUR OF THE WOLF 359

What is it with England? They've got BABYLON 5 video tapes, calendars, books, posters . . . you name it. There's something going on across the Atlantic and American fans better take notice. Yeah, yeah, we know, those Brits get their B5 on one major network, every week, and they show the entire series straight through, no repeats. Imagine if you will, seeing an entire brand-new season without two or three-month long rerun breaks. Wouldn't that be something? And to further rub salt in our wounds, they always get the season finales months before we do. First season, it was "Chrysalis"; second season, they got the last four; third season, they got the final five. Maybe this is what we get for starting that old revolution back in 1776?



**Kosh: "Have I ever told you that I find you extremely attractive?" (Bruce Boxleitner and Best Costume at Wolf.)**

Last year, I had the opportunity to see what exactly was going on over there in the mother country. Wolf 359 - The Encounter took place on June 7-10, 1996 in Blackpool. I'd been around to some interesting places in the world, but this was the first time I had ever been to Europe. Flying east always leaves me totally disoriented, so I was still in a daze when I got to Blackpool. On the train ride up, I had the great fortune to sit with Greg Funk and Fionagh Cush of Optic Nerve, who were there to turn Bill Mumy and one lucky fan into Minbari. It sure was a nice way to pass the time.

The Encounter officially got underway as the cast made their grand entrance at the evening ceremonies. You could hear the shock as Andreas Katsulas (a last minute addition) came on stage pushing a broom (I guess he really had to work his way into the convention. :) Michael O'Hare and Ron Thornton were forced to cancel, but the rest of the cast more than made up for their absence. Bill Mumy and Peter David promoted their imaginative sci-fi show *Space Cases*, while Bruce Boxleitner said he probably wouldn't suit up again in tights for a sequel to *Tron*. In retrospect, one of the more interesting moments was during a panel with J. Michael Straczynski and Stephen Furst. In response to a fan's question of whether any of the B5 actors wanted to direct an episode, Stephen (a director in his own right) replied that he had mentioned a desire to direct at one time to the producers, but did not pursue the matter. JMS then asked, "Stephen, do you want to direct an episode?" to which he answered, "I'd love to direct BABYLON 5." (Interesting how all that worked out.)

Andreas worked the crowd in his first ever convention appearance and (from backstage) performed G'Kar's ending monologue from "Z'ha'dum", months before it would be seen in either England or the US. During his own panel, JMS answered most future speculation questions with the usual: "No comment," "I can't talk about it," and "None of your business." Joe strung along the audience with news regarding the status of season four, before finally reading a fax from John Copeland saying, "The fourth season is a go." The roof nearly came off the place as this was the FIRST public announcement regarding the show's renewal.

Ready for an encore? If you thought that sounded big, Wolf 359 – The Alliance looks to be even better. With the most impressive guest list ever assembled, this is looking to be the largest BABYLON 5 related event in the world. It will be held again July 11-14 at The Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool. At press time, the guest list includes: J. Michael Straczynski, Bruce Boxleitner, Claudia Christian, Richard Biggs, Mira Furlan, Bill Mumy, Stephen Furst, Jason Carter, Julie Caitlin Brown, Peter Jurasik, Pat Tallman, Joshua Cox, Ed Wasser, Walter Koenig, Jeff Conaway, Jeffrey Willerth, with more on the way.

Going across the Atlantic isn't easy for most of us in America, but WOLF 359 is more than worth it. Given its track record, there are bound to be some surprises; and no, I am not just talking about the fire alarm going off at 11:00pm forcing everyone, including the tired B5 stars out into the hotel parking lot.

**P.S.** Oh, I'm not sure what the term "indentured servant" really means, but I HAVE to get to this convention!!!

**Tom Bateman**

photos ©1997 Tom Bateman

**"Toga! Toga! Toga!" (The Infamous Psi-Corps.)**

## THE ALLIANCE – A BABYLON 5 EVENT

**July 11 - 14, 1997 at The Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool, England.**

This is expected to be the largest ever gathering of B5 Stars outside of the USA. Run in association with the B5 UK Fan Club.

Confirmed guests include (subject to work commitments): J.Michael Straczynski, Bruce Boxleitner, Claudia Christian, Richard Biggs, Mira Furlan, Bill Mumy, Stephen Furst, Jason Carter , Julie Caitlin Brown, Peter Jurasik, Pat Tallman, Josh Cox, Ed Wasser, Walter Koenig, Jeffrey Willerth, Jeff Conaway, Joanne Higgins (Executive Producer's Assistant).

The event will be held over four full days starting Friday with an opening ceremony at around 11am. The guests will appear to give Q & A sessions at least twice over the four days. All of the guests have asked for informal autograph signings over the four days. This means they will be signing as often as they can.

Tickets: All Four Days – Adult £70, Child (7-14), £40; Two Days – Adult £50, Child £30; Single Day – Adult £30, Child £17:50. Children under 7 are FREE if accompanied by a paying adult. Wolf 359 Discount Club members can deduct 10%. All prices include VAT. Wolf359 reserves the right to refuse admittance. Refunds can only be given if the event is cancelled. There is a Special Prize for Ticket no. 359.

Send a check or postal order to: Wolf 359 Conventions, 141 Waarden Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9BE. Include 3 SAEs and the name of each person booking. For further Information send a SAE to the convention address.

## Sheridan Speaks To Delenn

When, frustrated with my most recent state,
Trapped on a station while I could explore
The Rim as captain and adventurer,
I told you of my feelings toward my fate,
Then you replied, "We're all a part of space,
All star stuff of the universe entwined."
Still later, you and I together dined
And tried to learn about each other's race.
Soon, meeting you became my chief delight
As if within my heart a barren hole
Was filling up with sweetness from your soul
Until my senses all were satisfied.
No longer can I see my world as mine
Without you in it, starlike and divine.

poem by **Donna Edsall**

# LUNACON

**March 7-9, 1997, Port Chester, NY.**
**BABYLON 5 guest: Michael O'Hare.**

Lunacon has traditionally been a literary convention. This year, however, they included a media guest in their line-up – Michael O'Hare.

On Friday night, everyone was invited to a sort of meet and greet "Meet the Pros". In a very informal arrangement, tables were set up so that you could just sit and talk with the guests that had arrived already. There were also some local personalities at the party, including Tony Tellado and Ernest Lilley. Tony has a radio program in NYC, *SciFi Talk*. They interview various science fiction personalities, including folks like Michael O'Hare (3 times), Jerry Doyle, Peter Jurasik (about 4 weeks ago), etc. The show is really catching on and I can only wish Tony and Ernest the best of luck in the future!

Michael arrived looking very relaxed and sat with a number of fans and just talked about his character, what he was currently working on and even watched a little of a season one episode on a mini-TV someone brought by to show Michael.

On Saturday, Michael was scheduled to talk at 1:00. Sporting a new pair of wire-rimmed glasses, Michael looked a bit like John Lennon (I borrowed this observation from Mike Z., but he's right and I'd really not noticed it before that). For Michael, poetry has become a part of his overall presentation. He read some works from his favorite poet, James Kavanaugh, including "Walk Easy on the Earth" and "Did I Tell You". You could tell this was a very literate audience, they hung on every word.

Following his reading, he was ready to answer questions, but began with one of his own. "What did you think of my hairdo as Valen?" Everyone chuckled a bit Michael said he didn't care for all the make-up required. He really feels for people like Bill Mumy that wear that stuff regularly. Valen's prosthetic "bonehead" now resides in Michael's apartment.

When asked if he had any idea of what he getting into when he accepted the role of Commander Sinclair on BABYLON 5, Michael said that he really had no idea, but that the whole experience had been a very good one. He had learned a lot from working with such professionals as John Flinn and Mira Furlan.

When asked about practical jokes, he said his working day was very demanding while he was on the show. He was in nearly every scene for the first season, so he didn't have a whole lot of time to goof around. However, his favorite joke was putting on a Bozo nose. Some of you may have seen it in one of the blooper tapes. It's choice.

He gave us a little information about a show called *The Heretic*. It's a British TV series that begins filming in September. Ed Wasser (our Mr. Morden) is the lead character, playing the angel Gabriel. Michael co-stars as Michael the archangel. It's about angels and demons fighting over the soul of man.

On Saturday afternoon, there was a B5 panel entitled "What B5 Gets Wrong". Even though two rooms had been devoted to this discussion – it was way too small. No matter, people stood, sat on the floor and just enjoyed the overall discussion. Colin Roald was the moderator for the discussion. What a dilemma for Michael. What do you say when people ask "What did BABYLON 5 Do Wrong?" Like most of us in the room, he couldn't really come up with specific things. While we have a tendency to pick the show apart sometimes, it's because we've gotten so wrapped up in the story, we want everything to be perfect. So what if the starfield turns the wrong way!

Sunday brought another, more active discussion panel, "B5: Character and Change". Panelists were Keith DeCandido, Joan Winston, Becky Kaplowitz, Perianne Lurie, Michael O'Hare, and Michael A. Burstein. As you can imagine, having Valen on the panel was particularly interesting. When asked how he felt his character had changed, Michael said that Sinclair had become more spiritual, more at peace with himself when compared with the early Sinclair. Sinclair was full of doubts, but when he went to Minbar, he studied there, formed the Rangers and then had the final transformation into Valen during "War Without End."

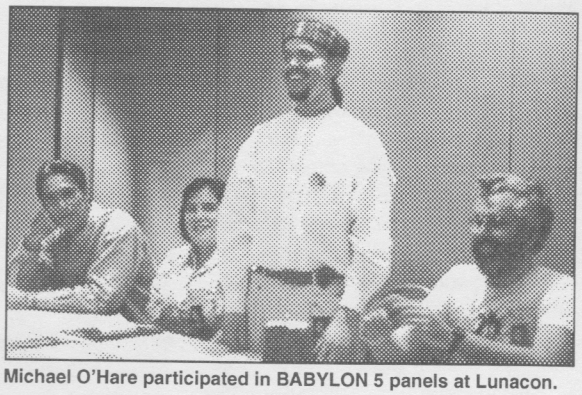


photo ©1997 Sandra Bruckner
**Michael O'Hare participated in BABYLON 5 panels at Lunacon.**

I think everyone agreed that Sinclair had undergone the most significant change, but all the characters are quite different from the ones we first met. Delenn, Vir, Londo, G'Kar, Ivanova, Lennier – none have remained the same. They have grown, one way or the other, since we were first introduced to them. We've seen Londo go from a comedic character to a more tragic one where his lust for power has led to some dramatic changes in his life and to those around him.

I was a little surprised when Keith had mentioned the "TKO" episode. I had thought I was the only one that loved the scene between Sinclair and Ivanova during the Shiva. As Sinclair shares a moment with Ivanova. Both characters are more clearly defined and clarified. Sinclair was there for Ivanova in her hour of need; Ivanova shows her strength by proceeding with a memorial for her father, despite their differences, and in the process learns a LOT about herself. These are B5 scenes that I look for and remember the most – those times when the power of character comes through. Defining a character in a story is not an easy task; making you CARE about them is even harder.

John Upton (con chairman) and Lunacon broke new ground by bringing in Michael O'Hare for their convention this year. It was a great merging the two universes. B5 is one of those works that can fall in both camps – literature and media. After all, it's a five-year novel. Right???

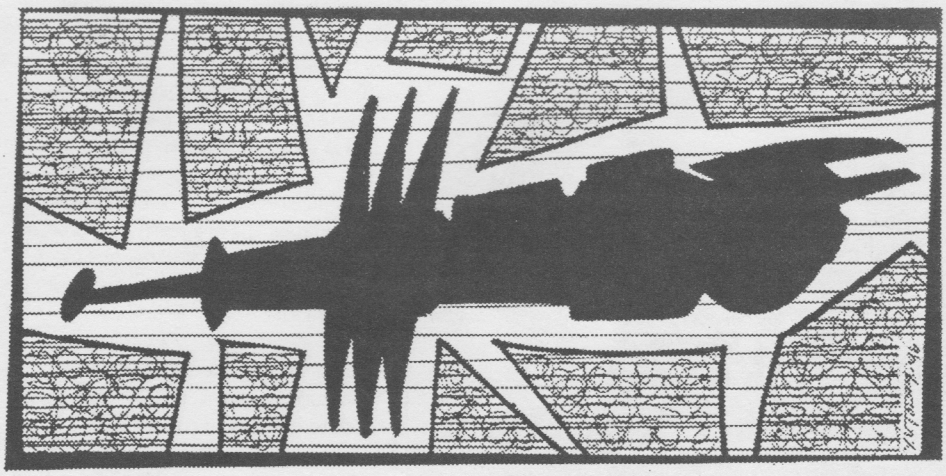
**Sandra Bruckner**

# FOR THE KIDS 2

My husband, Bill, and I took another couple, John and Linda Elderidge, to their first convention on Palm Sunday, March 22. It was the fan-run, charity-based con called For the Kids 2, in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Michael O'Hare was one of the guests and gave a nice talk that day. I had to admit he looked so well, compared to his previous appearance – I hope everything's fine now. It was a nice enjoyable day for both Bill and me, plus our two friends.

**Pamela K. Truesdale**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# BABYLON 5 EPISODES

## Ship of Tears (#314)

**Bester's significant other becomes a commodity of the Shadows.**

The ISN network comes back on the air. An anchor person explains that the reason ISN went off the air was because the building was sabotaged by rebels – in actuality President Clark had taken it over. The perky announcer reports that the imposed Martial law on Earth, which has brought crime down to an all time low, has become popular

Captain John Sheridan is trying out a production model of a Starfury that is capable of operating in an atmosphere. He receives a message that a distress call is coming in from an unknown ship, and replies that he will investigate the transmission. Sheridan is surprised when he finds out that Psi Cop Alfred Bester is on board. Bester tells him that he has something very important to tell him. Because the Psi Corp is not welcome on Babylon 5 Sheridan tries to keep out of Bester's scanning range and approaches him cautiously.

On B5 G'Kar approaches Susan Ivanova and demands that he is made a member of the War Council – he has kept his part of the bargain.

Bester boards B5 and is greeted by an armed security force, while the command staff safely observes him on a monitor. Sheridan mentions to Ivanova that Bester doesn't know that she is a latent telepath – she would be able to tell if Bester was scanning them for information.

Ivanova approaches Bester in his cell. Bester brings up her mother, which upsets Ivanova. He tells her that Clark is not the one who is calling the shots on Earth. Through Clark, a mysterious race of aliens has infiltrated Psi Corps.

Sheridan discusses G'kar's concern with Delenn. Delenn insists on taking the responsibility of telling G'Kar the truth.

Bester explains that their mutual enemy is escorting a convoy of ships, which are carrying weapon components, through hyperspace in Sector 500. Bester feels that he would be able to locate them in hyperspace, which tends to amplify telepathic scanning abilities.

Delenn meets G'Kar. She tells him that the Shadows have returned, in search for allies. She explains that while she was on the Grey Council they found out about this activity and chose to remain silent. Delenn feared that if she confirmed G'Kar's warning of the Shadow's returning, then other worlds might not have believed them. Instead they had to stand silent as they watched the Centauri take over Narn Homeworld. "Some must be sacrificed, for all to be saved." G'Kar reluctantly agrees with her, realizing that it was done for the best. She hopes that someday he will forgive her.

Bester is on the White Star with Sheridan. He locates the convoy in hyperspace and a Shadow fighter fires on them. The White Star destroys it and locks on to the transport with a magnetic discharge. A Shadow mothership is spotted, which unexpectedly flees from them.

The transport is being unloaded on B5. The alien pilot seems to have committed suicide. The cargo, which Bester said was weapons and supplies, turns out to be telepaths in sleeper tubes. From the expressions on their faces it appears that they did not go voluntarily. Bester explains that if B5 actually knew what was on the transport they would not have been interested in helping him. Sheridan wants to know why they were considered weapon components.

As Stephen Franklin is reviving one of the telepaths from her cryotube he notices an ID bracelet with a Psi Corp insignia and a series of numbers etched into it. Cyberweb implants have been connected to her skull.

The telepath wakes up in a frantic state. While she is put under sedation in Medlab she dreams of aliens operating on her, and has visions of Shadow ships.

Bester translates the ID bracelet. The telepath is a "Blip", a telepath that ran away. After finding out that she has a P12 rating he notices something that makes his face turn white. He demands to see her.

As Michael Garibaldi, Bester, and Franklin arrive at Medlab alarms go off. They enter and find the telepath connected to wires that have been ripped from the ceiling and walls of B5 – she is in the process infiltrating the station. She sends out a charge when she sees Bester. Garibaldi takes Bester's Psi Corp pin and tosses it on the floor in front of her. She immediately fries it. Bester scans the telepath and sees visions of the alien technicians and Shadow ship.

Bester calls the telepath his "single bright light of existence." Bester met the Blip while she was assigned to the Psi Corp Reeducation Center. Though he treated her with favors he did not have the authority to get her out. His actual marriage to another telepath was prearranged by Psi Corp to produce telepaths. He never fell in love with someone until he met Carolyn, and now she is carrying his child. Carolyn, as well as the other telepaths found on the transport, were to be plugged into the Shadow's organic vessels and used as central operating systems. Bester remarks that he promised her that he would take care of her and the baby. He asks for their help, declaring, "Your war is now my war!"

Delenn brings G'Kar into the War Room. He is now part of the council.

Garibaldi searches through G'Kar's Book of G'Quon. After translating a Narn word to "Mindwalker" he calls a Code 7-R.

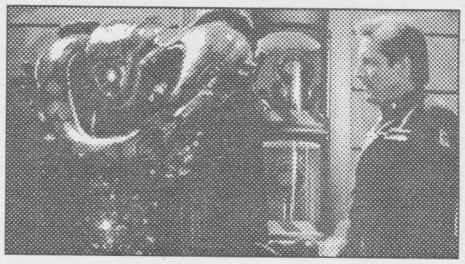
The War Council convenes and Garibaldi explains that the Book of G'Quon reveals that the Shadows are afraid of telepaths. This is probably the reason why they have infiltrated Psi Corp. It explains why the Shadow vessel fled from the White Star which had Bester on board, and why Carolyn shot at him.

A report comes in – the Shadows are on the move and are attacking Brakiri space.

"Ship of Tears" was written by J. Michael Straczynski, produced by John Copeland, directed by Michael Vejar, edited by Skip Robinson, with John C. Flinn III as Director of Photography. Starring: Joan McMurtrey – Carolyn, Diana Morgan – Alison, Debra Sharkey – Med Tech.

summary by **Michael Zmuda**

## Interludes and Examinations (#315)



**Sheridan tries to convince Kosh that the Vorlon's support in the war with the Shadows is necessary.**

Ivanova reports to her log that the Shadows are indiscriminately hitting targets near the rim, extra security has been hired on the station because of the building tension, and Kosh hasn't been seen for over a week.

Londo asks Vir to rent a suite, Adira Tyree is coming back to visit him. Adira, who is Londo's one true love, was once a slave but is now free.

Morden appears to be paying off a security officer with diamonds – the officer is later found dead.

The Brakiri ambassador is asking Sheridan for assistance in their battle with the Shadows. The Shadows have been instigating neighboring aliens to fight with each other, causing them to waste their resources. Sheridan asks the Gaim representative, the closest major civilization to the Brakiri, if they would be interested in uniting with them. If the Gaim supported the Brakiri then four other planets would be convinced to do the same. The Gaim ambassador replies that if they take sides the Shadows will notice them, fearing that the Shadows might be the stronger power.

As casualties are coming into Medlab Franklin is loosing his temper. Under the influence of Stims he gives his techs wrong information. When Dr. Lilian Hobbs tries to correct him Franklin insists that his orders were right all along.

Londo is in a fantastic mood as he thinks back to the last time he was with Adira. On his way to inspect Adira's suite he meets Morden. Morden is upset because Refa is not returning his calls and the Centauri government is not being cooperative anymore. Londo responds that Morden's associates are using the Centauri as their "personal agents of chaos". Morden warns that if Centauri doesn't comply with their agreements his associates may turn their eyes on Centauri.

Garibaldi stops by Franklin's quarters to talk to him about his Stim addiction. Franklin gets agitated and tells him that he has to get back to work.

Delenn visits Sheridan in the War Room. The Shadows are continuing to strike without reason. Sheridan cannot figure out how to organize the Narns and the League of Non-Aligned Worlds into a defensive force since

they are all having conflicts with each other. He feels that if they could score just one victory against the Shadows that it might convince the races to unite. Delenn is certain that he will come up with a plan.

Garibaldi approaches Hobbs and asks her for help in getting a record of Franklin's blood test. She refuses to get the files for him but does let him know how to access them. Franklin looks on in the distance.

Vir gives an order of items that Londo wants for Adira to a vendor in the Zocalo. He spots Morden, who appears to be looking for someone. As Vir walks down a corridor Morden steps from around a corner. Vir brushes him off. Morden goes back to the Zocalo and approaches the vendor, asking him if he has seen Vir. Morden tells him that Vir was supposed to give him a list of details and asks the vendor if he can help by giving them to him.

Garibaldi begins to access Franklin's files but changes his mind and cancels the request – just as Franklin walks in. Franklin tells him that he just completed a blood test, the results indicated that he is addicted to Stims. Franklin must make a decision about what he is going to do.

Sheridan confronts Kosh and asks him for his help in the battle with the Shadows. Even though the Vorlons have superior weapons Kosh's reply is, "No." He explains that it is not the Vorlon's time. "We are not prepared yet." Sheridan criticizes Kosh for "pulling everyone's strings. It's about time you started pulling your own weight around here!" The aperture on Kosh's encounter suit flares open.

Meanwhile, C&C records an energy surge on the station.

Sheridan continues to aggravate Kosh. "I hear you got a saying, 'Understanding is a three-edged sword.' Well we have a saying, 'To put your money where your mouth is!'" Sheridan defies Kosh's order to leave, and Kosh strikes him with a charge. As Sheridan is pinned against the wall he demands to know how many more will have to die before he is satisfied. Kosh replies, "I will do as you ask, but there is a price to pay. I will not be there to help you when you go to Z'ha'dum."

Ivanova reports of another attack by the Shadows in Brakiri space. A jumpgate suddenly forms in that sector of space and a stream of Vorlon ships exit, firing on the Shadows. Ivanova reports that they are winning.

Londo is waiting for Adira to board the station. He asks a bald-headed man if anyone else is still on the transport. He replies that he is the last. Medical technicians wheel out a corpse in a body bag. Londo is told that it is Adira, she was found dead in her cabin. There was no sign of struggle, they will not know how she died until after an autopsy is done. Londo thinks back to the time when he told Refa that he had just been poisoned.

Morden hands the bald-headed man a sum of diamonds.

After the news of the victory spreads the Ambassadors all sign on to unite against the Shadows.

Morden breaks into Kosh's quarters, followed by several Shadows.

Sheridan is tossing in his sleep. In a dream he is having he is with his father on Earth. His dad tells him, "It had to be done. Don't blame yourself for what happened later." He wishes he could have done more for him. Bending over in pain, he says, "I'll always be here." Sheridan wakes up screaming, "Kosh! Kosh!"

In Kosh's quarters a burnt encounter suit is piled on the floor. Morden walks out of the room.

Delenn, Sheridan, and Garibaldi discuss the fact that, except for the destroyed suit, there are no signs that Kosh is actually dead. The Vorlon government requests that all of his possessions are placed on his ship.

Londo finds out that it was poison that killed Adira. Morden tells him that Refa had said something about "evening the score" with Londo. "Everyone around me dies Mr. Morden, except for the ones who deserve it." He asks Morden to find out who is responsible for Adira's death. "All I want now is revenge. They took from me the one thing I had truly ever loved. And you will help me Mr. Morden, to strike them down. Give me this, and the safety of my people, and let the rest of the galaxy burn. I don't care any more." Morden agrees to help, "As ever, I am at your service."

Franklin tells Sheridan that though he is dedicated to his job he must resign because of his drug addiction. His obsession with fixing other beings is an excuse to not deal with his own problem. He needs time to figure things out.

Kosh's organic ship, loaded with his possessions, leaves Babylon 5. The grieving ship heads towards a star.

"Interludes and Examinations" was written by J. Michael Straczynski, produced by John Copeland, directed by Jesús Treviño, edited by David W. Foster, with John C. Flinn III as Director of Photography. Starring: Jennifer Dalgobin – Dr. Lilian Hobbs, Rance Howard – David Sheridan, Jan Rabson – Vendor, Jonathan Chapman – Brakiri, Maggie Ciglar – Tech, Glenn Martin – Ranger, Doug Tompos – Med Tech. summary by **Michael Zmuda**

## War Without End – Part One (#316)

On the Minbari Homeworld a hooded figure walks down a corridor. A Minbari named Rathenn runs after him, calling "Entil'Zha". He hands him a box and says that the ancient books instruct for this box to be opened on this day. "We did not know what was inside. It was locked and sealed for over 900 years." The cloaked figure opens the box, which holds a letter which is address to Jeffrey Sinclair. The figure removes his hood to reveal that he is the person the letter is addressed to – Jeffrey Sinclair. He seems disturbed by the letter.

**Sinclair returns to Babylon 5 to assist Sheridan in saving its future.**

"He is the closed circle. He is returning to the beginning," a Vorlon remarks of Sinclair to the Rathenn.

Lt. Corwin receives a transmission from Sector 14, an area which has been under quarantine for almost four years, and alerts Ivanova. A message come through the static, "They're killing us!" Corwin recognizes the voice as Ivanova's.

Ivanova, Sheridan, and Garibaldi meet. Garibaldi feels that the transmission is coming from the future and might be the fall of Babylon 5, which he had experienced with Sinclair a couple of years ago. He volunteers to take a Star Fury out to the sector to investigate the mystery.

Lennier enters Delenn's quarters. She already knows of Sinclair's arrival on Babylon 5. A note addressed to her, similar to the one that Sinclair received, lays on a table.

Delenn approaches Sheridan and Marcus in a corridor and tells them that they must prepare to board the White Star. She will explain everything once they are on the ship.

Two hours away from Sector 14 Garibaldi does a long-range scan. He detects that the temporal rift is twice as big and is being caused by a tachyon field coming from Epsilon 3.

On Epsilon 3 the Great Machine is surging with energy. Two of Draal's helpers realize that something is not right. One comments that if they disturb Draal the time field would be disrupted.

Sinclair meets Sheridan on the White Star and tells him that there wasn't time to alert Babylon 5 of his arrival – he was also surprised about his immediate change of plans.

Garibaldi picks up the signal again. He receives a visual of a bruised Ivanova at Babylon 5's C&C, which is in shambles behind her. He then witnesses the destruction of the station by Shadow ships.

Delenn asks Sheridan, "Do you trust me?" "With my life," he replies. She tells them that she received some information. Delenn explains that the Minbari's last great war with the Shadows was over one thousand years ago. They were able to defeat them and drive them from their homeworld, Z'ha'dum. She shows them a video taken from a Minbari Starbase, before it was destroyed. The war was taking a turn for the worse, when out of no where Babylon 4 arrived and helped them win the battle.

She then shows a recording made from Epsilon 3. When Babylon 4 was being built the Shadow's allies realized what it was and were about to attack it. Delenn explains that the White Star came to its rescue, which is the reason why Epsilon 3 has opened the rift for them. "If we fail to save Babylon 4, Babylon 5 will also be destroyed," Delenn warns them. They must now take the White Star six years into the past.

Sheridan is shocked that he will be the person responsible for Babylon 4's disappearance. Without Babylon 4 the Shadows would have been able to rebuild their forces. Sinclair confirms her beliefs, stating that he has a "very reliable source" to back it up. If they do not proceed, a possible future will become real – Babylon 5 will be destroyed.

From the transmission Garibaldi received, he is able to figure out that the message's date stamp is from eight days into the future.

Sheridan agrees they must do what needs to be done, and orders

Garibaldi to return to Babylon 5. Lennier reports that a transport from Epsilon 3 is arriving with cargo. According to Draal the time shifting mechanism needs a clearly defined target. A homing device must be placed in the central power core of Babylon 4 so that they can move it through time.

**Zathras brings necessary time stabilizers from Draal to the White Star.**

Zathras, one of Draal's helpers, boards the White Star. Sinclair recognizes him from his previous visit to Babylon 4. Zathras doesn't recognize him because they met in his future. Zathras is honored to meet The One, and slips that he is also honored to meet Sheridan for a different reason, but he can not explain why.

Sinclair asks Sheridan for a favor – he does not want to make contact with Garibaldi. Sinclair thinks back to his previous time flash, to a possible future, of Garibaldi and him battling the Shadows before Babylon 5 is destroyed. "No. It won't happen. I won't let it happen," he comments to himself.

Zathras hands everyone on the White Star devices that would protect them from time distortion. Sheridan commands Lennier to take the ship into the rift.

Back on Babylon 5 Zack Allen tells Garibaldi that Sinclair was on board. Garibaldi is upset that he missed him. He checks the computer in his quarters for a message that Sinclair might have left him . . . there is one, but it is password encoded.

The White Star experiences some turbulence as it enters the rift. They spot an object which turns out to be a fusion bomb which is being escorted by Shadow vessels . . . and is heading towards Babylon 4. The White Star comes under fire from Shadow fighters.

Garibaldi runs through a list of passwords before "Hello, old friend," gets him access to Sinclair's message. Sinclair explains that he will not be coming back from Babylon 4 – and if Garibaldi went with him he wouldn't be coming back either.

The bomb, which is quickly approaching Babylon 4, is fired at and hit by the White Star . . . which has just enough time to turn around and escape the explosion. Sheridan's time stabilizer is damaged from a stray bolt of energy and he disappears. Zathras explains that he is trapped in time. Sinclair tells Delenn that he can be found later. Because Babylon 4's scanners are down they must quickly use the opportunity to get to the station, and put the future back on track.

*Sheridan finds himself older, and handcuffed, laying on a floor. A booted foot kicks him before he is raised to his feet by Centauri guards. He is confused when he see an aged Londo sitting on a throne in front of him. "Welcome back from the abyss Sheridan. Your time, as always, is quite exceptional. Just in time to die!" Londo exclaims.*

Delenn is concerned that Sheridan's disappearance was not in the plan. Sinclair assures her that he is okay.

*Londo explains to Sheridan that he is being punished for his crimes. In Sheridan's campaign to drive the Shadows away they turned towards Centauri Prime. Londo brings him over to a window and shows him a war-torn Centauri city, with its buildings on fire.*

The White Star attaches itself to Babylon 4 and breeches its hull.

"World Without End" – Part 1, was written by J. Michael Straczynski, directed by Michael Vejar, produced by John Copeland, edited by Suzanne Sternlight, with John C. Flinn III as Director of Photography. Starring: Tim Choate as Zathras, Times Winters – Rathenn, Kevin Fry – Centauri Guard, Eril Zivot – Spragg.

summary by **Michael Zmuda**

## War Without End – Part Two (#317)

*Sheridan, because of a malfunction of his time stabilizer, finds himself a prisoner on Centauri Prime, which is ruled by an aged, sickly Londo, finally Emperor. Londo excoriates Sheridan by saying, "During your little war, you defeated the Shadows, but did not think to clean up your mess. This is the legacy of your war, the price we paid, when you abandoned us to the enemies you escaped from." Protesting, Sheridan says, "This couldn't happen – not in this amount of time! What year is this?" Londo replies, "It's the last year of the last day of the last hour of the rest of your life. 17 years since your Great Crusade." A tired Londo has his guards take Sheridan away, bitterly telling him, "Make your peace with whatever Gods you worship." He promises his demise the next time he is sent for.*

Aboard Babylon 4, Major Krantz asks his First Officer about the explosion, and when the scanners will be operative again. The officer replies that the explosion was thermonuclear in origin, and the scanners will be online in 1 1/2 hours or so. Krantz then orders the blast area searched, and doubled security in case anyone tries to breech the hull.

Marcus and Ivanova are searching for an access panel. Security guards discover them and a fierce fight ensues in which they emerge victorious. Leaning back, Marcus' pike crashes into the wall, causing the panel to open.

*Sheridan is in his cell, clutching his stomach, in time-distortion pain . . .*

. . . Zathras, unloading equipment from the floor access tube, sees him fade in and out.

Sinclair is satisfied with the progress so far. Delenn is overcome by a strange feeling, as "if someone just walked over my grave."

*Someone enters Sheridan's cell. He calls out, "Who is it?" Delenn steps out of the shadows, and he asks what she is doing there. They embrace, emotionally, and she replies saying that she told the Centauri nothing, though they tried to make her. With painful resignation she says, "I accepted my fate years ago, they cannot harm me." She tells him that they are allowing them one last moment together before . . . Sheridan is stunned when he is told they have a son, David. He is assured of the boy's safety..*

Ivanova triggers a false hull breech alarm, in order to clear the area they need to install the time stabilizer to Babylon 4, so that they can move backward in time.

*Sheridan urges Delenn to listen to him, "I'm not supposed to be here. I'm not really here. Last thing I remember was being on the bridge of the White Star." Stunned, she utters, "In Valen's name, it's true." Adding that he had told her, he'd seen this moment, but didn't believe him. Stroking his anguished face, she laments, "There is so much ahead of you, I can see the innocence in your eyes – you don't know what's to come. "Sheridan states that he got the impression from Londo that they won the war, but not totally. She replies that no war is ever won . . . only the names change. It's with some pride she says that they created something that will last one thousand years. But at a terrible price. Sheridan, frustrated, asks if there is anything he can do. Delenn sadly tells him, only if they surrender to the Shadows, and that is too great a price to pay. But, Sheridan affirms, "We have a son." Yes, she replies.*

*The guards come for them, and lead them to a drunken Londo. They look in horror at the parasite attached to his neck. He apologizes to them for not standing, as he has had "considerable to drink", in order to put his "Keeper" to sleep. It's the only way they can be alone. Everyone has their Keeper, he tells them, and he feels he gave a good performance, it was satisfied. It cares not what he does as long as Sheridan's dead. Londo, coughing, says that it cannot hold its liquor, and in a few minutes it is out, he can be himself. He pleads, "You are my last chance for this place, my life – almost over. All I hoped for – gone." Hoping for his own redemption, he tells them of a hidden ship, meant for their escape, and urges them and their allies to help free his people. Devastation can be read on their faces, as they are told to go. Londo feels his keeper awakening.*

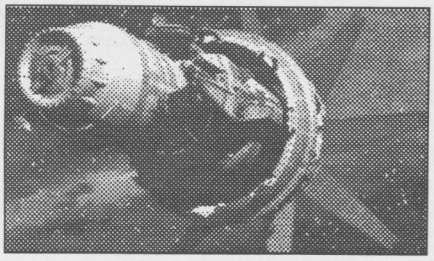
*They leave and an aged, worn G'Kar emerges from the shadows. Londo resigned says, "You are there, my old friend. They will never make it out alive." His Keeper will alert the others. "We have unfinished business – let us make an end of it." They strangle each other to death.*

*As they attempt escape, Sheridan clutches his stomach. Delenn alarmed cries, "What is it?" "I'm being dragged back to the past." Time growing short, she pleads with him, "Treasure the moments you have for as long as you can – they will never come again. And you have for as long as you can – they will never come again. And listen to me – do not go to Z'ha'dum!!" With that, he vanishes.*

*Vir discovers the dead Londo and G'Kar, and carefully picks up the Emperor's amulet. Staring at the ceiling, he contemplates his fate.*

Marcus asks Zathras to help him with the equipment, but he replies that he is too busy. He has an idea of how to correct the time stabilizer. He connects it to a space suit, saying perhaps the power supply in it will help activate it. It won't last Zathras admits, and he will be lost again.

Marcus believes that Zathras is mad for thinking Sheridan will return. Ivanova replies that, "We're stealing a space station to help fight one thou-



**Babylon 4 is the key to Babylon 5's future.**

sand year old war – we're all nuts." She was also considering what Delenn had said, that Valen began about that time – that he was Minbari, not born of Minbari. She wonders. He is one of their holiest figures, defeated the Shadows, and formed the Grey Council.

Suddenly, electric currents surge through the suit on the floor, it expands, and Sheridan appears. He tells them that he feels like he could drift away again.

Ivanova says they can proceed to the central power core. Sheridan and Sinclair work on it. They move the last piece of the time-jump system into place, after which it will be stabilized for time travel.

Ivanova reports that she has rigged Babylon 4's scanners to report a false alert in the fusion reactor, so it will appear that it will blow and thus they will have to evacuate the crew.

The First Officer reports a 20% energy drop in the power core, and that they are picking up a surge of tachyon particles . . . then . . . in a field of sparkling light, Babylon 4 disappears, and moves four years ahead in time.

Zathras reports a malfunction in the time device. It activated prematurely. To which Marcus responds that it is exactly when Babylon 4 appeared last time. Ivanova agrees that all is happening the way it did, whether or not they want it to. Zathras says the time system is dangerous, they could become lost in time. It must be adjusted before the next try.

Ivanova, trying to raise Sheridan, is told by Sinclair that he disappeared again, and asks her to come up. There's a problem.

The First Officer tells Krantz that the reactor has become unstable, it might blow, and 2,000 workers' lives are in jeopardy. The Major is reluctant at first, but is persuaded that all is well, they can return. They decide to send a distress signal. They get another tachyon burst.

*Delenn, crawling out of the access tube, gets a time flash forward, and sees herself in Sheridan's quarters. She picks up a glass globe, hears a woman's voice saying, "Hello," and the globe crashes to the floor.*

They ask her if she is alright. Zathras explains that with time flashes, you see yourself backwards or forwards in time, they are unstable.

Sinclair appears aged. Alarmed, they ask what happened. He explains that it happened because he passed through a time-distortion field once before, and was afraid that would happen. That's why he didn't want Garibaldi along. The same thing might happen to him, was his fear. Ivanova, asks, "You won't get older, the closer you are to our own time, will you?" Zathras reluctantly reveals the truth, it is uncertain, but there is a good chance it will happen.

Sinclair, brushes it off, stating that we can't worry about that now. We've got a job to finish. Sheridan disappeared as the field was instated, "and if we don't get him back soon we could loose him." He urges Zathras to repair Sheridan's time stabilizer, or he could be lost permanently.

Zathras says that he needs equipment for the delicate work. Ivanova reports that she saw a work area nearby with tools.

Sinclair goes back to the power core to readjust equipment. He tells Marcus and the rest to monitor the readings on the White Star. This has to work, one last shot. He says, "Let's make the best of it."

Sinclair is told it is still unstable. Lennier reports that seven ships are being picked up by sensors. Sinclair responds that he was wondering when they would get here. Marcus asks who's on board. He answers that he is, with Garibaldi, when they came to answer the distress call.

Commander Sinclair and Garibaldi, in their reality, are in the lead shuttle. Sinclair orders shuttle wing to take it out, and evacuate if they need to.

Zathras, with Ivanova, is searching, discouraged, in the work area. She is concerned about time. He replies that they cannot run out of time, "You are finite, Zathras is finite, and this is . . . wrong tool." Finally, he finds the right part, and fixes the time stabilizer, where upon he is found by security forces, and taken to a holding area.

Ivanova reports his arrest, and asks how repairs are going. Marcus tells her it'll take a couple of more hours. She says that's too long, "What if I can adjust power at C&C?" "Fine," Marcus replies, "if you can get there."

Delenn is sitting on the bridge of the White Star when something suddenly occurs to her, and she leaves.

Sinclair and Garibaldi are with Krantz and his First officer. Krantz tells them that discrepancies were noted 24 hours after Babylon 4 went operational. Thought it was a glitch in the console, then all hell broke loose.

Sinclair asks them if anything unusual happened after the station moved in time. Yes, and they lead him to Zathras, in the holding area. Krantz says we don't know who he is, where he comes from, and have never seen an alien like him before. As they enter, Zathras rises, peering at a puzzled Sinclair, and shakes his head saying, "Not 'The One'." Confused, Sinclair shoots back, "Not the one what?" Reaffirming, Zathras again states, "Not 'The One'. Can't talk, won't talk. Not 'The One', they told him and he does what he is told."

The First Officer announces to all to move out, they are evacuating the station. They'll run everything from the docking bay. Which gives Ivanova access to C&C, and allows her access to what needs doing.

Zathras makes allusions to a great war, and a great hope for peace. It then occurs to Sinclair what Zathras is inferring, that he needs Babylon 4 as a base of operations in a war.

They leave the room, and suddenly a blue-suited figure appears.

Ivanova starts the power core.

Sinclair, against Garibaldi's protests, nears the blue-suited figure, reaches for it, and on contact, a shock throws him across the room.

Zathras runs to the figure and gives it the repaired time stabilizer.

In the maelstrom, Zathras is pinned under a fallen beam. Sinclair struggles to help him but cannot budge him. "We can't leave him!" Sinclair shouts. "You think I want to? But we have to leave now!" Krantz replies.

Zathras orders Sinclair, "Go now! Leave me!" An anguished Sinclair shouts, "I can't!" Zathras urges him to go saying, "You have a destiny. Leave now or be trapped in time." Sadly, Sinclair leaves him.

Marcus discovers Sheridan laying near the access tube, without his space suit. "What are you doing here?" Sheridan replies that the last thing he remembers is appearing there a short time ago, then passing out. Marcus speculates that Zathras must've repaired Sheridan's time stabilizer. Sheridan notes that it isn't his, there is no sign of damage. Someone must've switched them. Marcus wonders, "Well, if you're here, who's that running around out there in the blue suit?"

The space-suited Sinclair, floating in space, tries to communicate to Garibaldi in the withdrawing evacuation force. He warns him to watch his back. The computer informs him that they are out of range. Sinclair gives up saying, "It all happened just like it did."

Zathras, trapped, notices a foot next to him. Peering up he smiles at the blue-suited figure to whom it's attracted. He is relieved, "I knew you would not leave Zathras. Zathras trusts The One." The figure removes its helmet, and it is Delenn.

Sinclair, with Delenn, says it happened just like he remembers. Delenn acknowledges it, and replies, it is time to go.

Ivanova tells them the time-shifting control can be operated from the C&C. It's ready to go.

Sinclair tells them to return to the White Star. He'll set it off and join them.

Marcus, however, discovers a truth. "Entil'Zha, you've kept us so busy, there's been no time to think. Someone has to ride this back to the distant past. You've always said that half a truth is worse than a lie. It's a one-way ticket – isn't it? Whoever goes isn't coming back." Marcus volunteers.

Sheridan asks, "Is this true?" Sinclair's silence acknowledges that it is. He speaks his truth. "I have always taken it back and I always will. It's already happened."

Ivanova protests, "You don't know that!'

But . . . he does. "You asked what brought me here. I was given this letter written 900 years ago." Sheridan examines it, and asks who's handwriting is this" "Mine," responds Sinclair. He went, it's as simple as that. Delenn proves his veracity by stating that she too received a letter.

Ivanova doesn't want to accept it, but Sinclair tells her that if he returns to their time, the aging affect would kill him. "Isn't it better to choose life?"

"Damn it, Jeff!" Susan cries, but Sinclair calms her by saying, "It's alright. My whole life has been leading to this." He asks Marcus and Ivanova to give, Sheridan, Delenn, and Zathras some time alone.

Sinclair, seeking clarification, and understanding, says to Zathras that he says he follows The One, and the one he pointed to was Delenn. Why?

Zathras replies, "Zathras knows, for he's the oldest living caretaker of the Great Machine and knows things that even its guardian Draal doesn't

know yet."

With great weight, he points to Sinclair, Delenn, and Sheridan, and says he knows each of them, and explains. "All Minbari is around three – three casts – worker, religious, warrior. Three languages, light, dark, grey. The Grey Council. Three times three, all is three, as you are three, as you are The One." Indicating each, first being Sinclair, he completes the truth. Sinclair, "You are the one who was." Delenn, "You are the one who is." And Sheridan, "You are the one who will be. Sinclair is the beginning of the story, that creates the next Great Story. In your heart, you know what Zathras says is true." He tells Sheridan and Delenn to go, saying that Zathras' place is with The One who was. "We have a destiny." On parting Sheridan and Sinclair clasp hands, and in Sheridan's eyes is read great regard and respect. Delenn and Sinclair exchange the Valen palm blessing, a sense of sadness, yet acceptance, can be seen in hers. As they leave, a poignant sadness, and yet resolve is etched upon the face of Jeffrey David Sinclair, Ambassador, and former Commander of Babylon 5, as he is now to fulfill his destiny.

**Sinclair begins a remarkable transformation.**

Coming aboard the White Star, the atmosphere is thick with sadness, and loss, with soulful glances exchanged. Sheridan orders them to standby to break seal, and comforts them, "It's what he wants. Let's respect it. Let's go home." Which they do.

As Babylon 4 is ridden into the past.

Ivanova reports that the temporal rift is closing, Sheridan saying that Draal wants no more trapped within. Delenn, affirms it, "That door is forever sealed." Then she address all. "It's not the only one. Minbari souls began to be born into human bodies a thousand years ago. Something happened to open that door." Her change was made to achieve a balance between Minbar and Earth, using a device called a triluminary, they found at that time."You see, if Babylon 4 had been found with a human aboard, the Minbari never would have accepted it."

Marcus exclaims, "Dear God, a Minbari, not born of Minbari!"

In flashbacks it's shown the precursor of what was to come, what has been and what is to be. Neroon addresses Sinclair saying, "You talk like a Minbari."

Sinclair finds the triluminary, and begins a process. Wispy filaments envelope him, his face obscured, enclosed in a silky form.

Then . . . It is 1,000 years ago. Two Minbari ships approach Babylon 4. Two representatives enter the station and are met by an exclaiming Zathras. He then leads them to a chamber where a Minbari personage and two Vorlon "angles" receive them. The personage warmly greets them and announces, "I welcome you, and present this place to them as a gift. I am called Valen, and we have much work ahead of us."

The former, very human commander of Babylon 5 has fulfilled destiny – he has become Valen.

"World Without End" - Part 2, was written by J. Michael Straczynski, directed by Michael Vejar, produced by John Copeland, edited by Skip Robinson, with John C. Flinn III as Director of Photography. Starring: Tim Choate as Zathras, Kent Broadhurst – Major Krantz, Bruce Morrow – Babylon 4 First Officer, Kevin Fry – Centauri Guard, Eddie Mui – Babylon 4 Tech.

summary by **Connie Colvin**

# CONVENTION EXPRESS

Over the past few weeks, I've had the opportunity to do several conventions – three in six weeks. LunaCon in Rye, New York was a fun convention and Mike told you a little about it in the last issue. Next up was For the Kids 2 in Charlottesville, VA. The setting was perfect – spring time in Virginia – trees in blossom, the air crisp and clear. A great time for friends to get together and we did just that. Michael O'Hare was a guest at the convention along with Barbara March (Lursa Duras from *Star Trek*). Dave Kirby, Rick and Cindy Sandridge were marvelous to work with.

Michael's Saturday Q&A session was packed and he answered a number of questions about his upcoming TV series, "The Heretic" being filmed over in England this fall. He described the series as a story of the struggle between angels and demons for the soul of humanity. Sounds like a very interesting premise and now everyone is curious to know if it will be shown here in the US. Ed Wasser has the lead in the show, so we hope that both Sinclair and Morden will find a permanent home in our homes via the tube! Since the convention is primarily a charity event for the local Pediatric Hospital, Rick and Cindy devised a unique auction item – three minutes alone with Michael in a cage chaperoned of course! Sandy from Ohio paid $400 for those three minutes. And it's tax deductible too! Can't beat that with a stick!

The last convention was I-CON, one of the oldest science fiction conventions around. It's held each year on the campus of State University of New York at Stony Brook and it was a unique experience to say the least. J. Michael Straczynski, Harlan Ellison, Peter David, Kathryn Drennan (Mrs. JMS and author of Babylon novel #9 *Dreaming in the City of Sorrows*) and Michael O'Hare were the B5 guests. Everyone had a busy schedule of events. Some of the highlights: Joe showed some clips from upcoming episodes, brought the house down with a description of his revenge on Andreas Katsulas and Peter Jurasik for a prank they pulled on him at a con in California, Michael, Harlan, Peter and JMS participated in a panel that centered on the intelligence (or lack thereof) of network executives. Peter shared some of his experiences in this area with Bill Mumy and *Space Cases*. Although Michael had come down with a case of the flu on that Friday, he made it through all of the events on Saturday and Sunday. I had breakfast with Kathryn, Michael, Harlan and Susan Ellison on Saturday. I still can't believe it! Harlan Ellison poured my orange juice and coffee! He's a very neat guy and I don't know if I've ever laughed so much during breakfast in my life. The stories this man can tell!

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Each convention has given me the opportunity to meet some friends that I had only known through e-mail messages. I-CON brought faces to Scotsman, Treebeard and Nyssa from thestation.com, Remei from Madrid here in the US on a vacation and her doing her first convention, Tom and his family, Mary and many others. People from all walks of life with a common interest BABYLON 5. Conventions are truly a visual representation of the sort of community BABYLON 5 has tried to create.

**Sandra Bruckner**

# THE CENTAURIAN SENTINEL'S FINAL ISSUE

TRANSMISSIONS

Yes, it is true . . . this is our last issue. After serious consideration I have decided to accept the position as Editor of *Universe Today*, the newsletter of the *Official Babylon 5 Fan Club*. Since I found the offer to take command of the official B5 newsletter irresistible, it would be quite impossible for me to work on and publish both newsletters.

In addition, Sandra Bruckner will be joining the *Universe Today* as its Co-Editor and will be involved in the fan club's Web site (thestation.com). For those of you who are familiar with *Universe Today*, you can expect to see our influence in future issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed and subscribed to ***The Centaurian Sentinel***, making it such a fun publication to publish. I especially want to thank Tom Bateman and Sandra for all their hard work. Both have been responsible for the newsletter's success. And thanks Mary, for all your patience.

I also want to thank J. Michael Straczynski for giving me that nod to go ahead with this publication. Of course, without his dream the opportunity to do ***The Sentinel*** wouldn't exist. (Who knows, I might have started a *Xena* newsletter instead.)

I am looking forward to working on *Universe Today*. I hope to continue my correspondence with all of you and hope to meet you at conventions.

If you are unfamiliar with *Universe Today*, or the *Official Babylon 5 Fan Club*, I invite you to take this opportunity to join this official international B5 club (see enclosed membership form).

No news on renewal for BABYLON 5. The fan club Web site will post the official news when it is made available. The decision from Warner Bros. may not be made until June or July, so there is still time to write your local television stations showing your support.

The third season episode, "Severed Dreams" (#310), has been nominated for a Hugo Award. The results of the voting will be announced at LoneStar Con 2 in San Antonio, August 28-September 1. A full list of nominees is available at: http://www.io.com/~lsc2/hugo/hugonom1.html.

B5 novel #8, *Personal Agendas*, by Al Sarrantonio is currently available in the US. #9, *To Dream in the City of Sorrow*, by Kathryn Drennan, should be available by the middle of May. Both books are published by Dell.

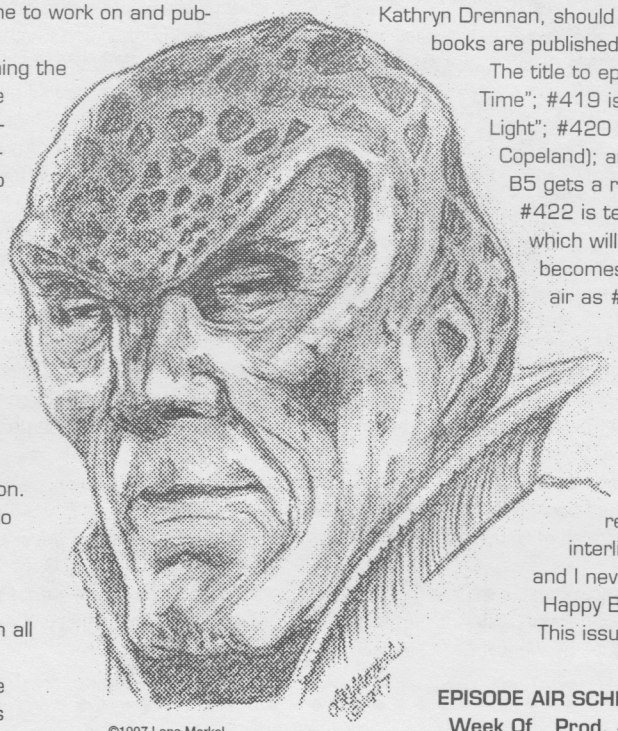
The title to episode #418 is "Intersections in Real Time"; #419 is "Between the Darkness and the Light"; #420 is "Endgame" (directed by John Copeland); and #421 is "Rising Star". Depending if B5 gets a renewal for a fifth season, episode #422 is tentatively planned as "Sleeping in Light", which will be directed by JMS. If a fifth season becomes a reality then "Sleeping in Light" will air as #522.

JMS posted the following on AOL about writing another season: "Yeah, this season they're all mine. Which is the last and only time I ever, EVER intend to do this. A season 5 would be structured *specifically* to allow freelancers to come in. I did this for story reasons as things got more intense and interlinked . . . but it damn near killed me, and I never, ever want to do this again."

Happy Birthday Peter Jurasik! (April 25)

This issue is in memory of Elvis T. Hotrod.

**Mykl**



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**EPISODE AIR SCHEDULE For United States:**

| Week Of | Prod. # | Title |
|---|---|---|
| 4/28 | 411 | Lines of Communication |
| 5/05 | 412 | Conflicts of Interests |
| 5/12 | 413 | Rumors, Bargains and Lies |
| 5/19 | 414 | Moments of Transition |
| 5/26 | 415 | No Surrender, No Retreat |
| 6/02 | 416 | The Exercise of Vital Powers |
| 6/09 | 417 | The Face of the Enemy |
| 6/16 | 418 | Intersections in Real Time |

# A CODE 7-R MESSAGE

Since this is the last ***Centaurian Sentinel***, I thought it only fitting to tell you all how much being a part of this publication has meant to me. Mike gave me my first writing chance . . . .a convention report for the Big E Con in Norfolk, VA in October of 1994. Has it been that long? Well, it only seems like a short time to me. Mike gave me the chance to share my convention experiences with you and I hope that you have enjoyed them as much as I have. I've met a lot of people at conventions and made some wonderful friends. Mike and ***The Sentinel*** have given me a place to pursue two of my passions . . . B5 and writing. One is a little more advanced than the other – but I'm working at it!

This is both a happy and sad occasion. ***The Sentinel*** has been a constant source of quality B5 material, thanks to Mike Zmuda. It's hard to say good bye, but since Mike and I are moving over to the *Universe Today*, it's really not good bye at all. It's more like see you next at the *Universe Today* or out on www.thestation.com – the fan club's web site.

Thank you, Mike, for all your help over the past few years. It's been great working with you. Our visit to B5 headquarters in February still ranks as the best in my book. Will that count as a business expense now?

Take care everyone. Hope to talk with you soon.

**Sandy**

## THE ZOCALO EXCHANGE

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### B5 CLUBS

**JEFF CONAWAY/ZACK ALLEN FAN CLUB.** Jeff has sanctioned this fan club. The cost is $10 in the US and $15 overseas (in US funds), and can be sent in a money order or check to the address below. The newsletter is open to fan letters, art work, poetry, convention reports, etc. plus will include Jeff's comments and input. Please allow 4-8 weeks for delivery of the introductory package. Contact CeSpaceMuz@aol.com or write to The Jeff Conaway Fan Club, 8330 Silvan Wind Lane, Houston, TX 77040-1412. Check out our Web site at http://members.aol.com/CeSpaceMuz .

### WANTED

**BABYLON 5 HOLOGRAM #1 AND #5.** From first series. Please contact: Connie Weir, 1503 N. Kenwood Street, Burbank, CA 91505-1858.

### BACK ISSUES

**CENTAURIAN SENTINEL BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE.** Most are available in limited quantities for $1.00 in the US and Canada, $2.00 overseas. Please list issue numbers needed when ordering. The Centaurian Sentinel, c/o Michael Zmuda, 17 Orchard Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579-3040.

The Centaurian Sentinel™

*Dedicated to J. Michael Straczynski's television series Babylon 5.*

**Our Final Issue** **BABYLON 5 EDITION**

# PARTING THOUGHTS

Working on ***The Centaurian Sentinel*** has been more fun than should be allowed by law. During this time, I have done dozens of articles and interviews with the cast and staff of BABYLON 5. I am confident that we put out the best damn newsletter we could, bar none. I am grateful to have been a part of this endeavor and I wish Mike all the best as he takes his skills to over-haul *Universe Today.* They couldn't have picked a better person for the job.

Thanks to all our subscribers who stood by us.

Thanks to JMS, John Copeland and the production staff for their support.

Thanks to the cast for sitting, talking and just being cool to me.

best always,
**T. J. Bateman**

## ISN EXCLUSIVE

*Posted online April 28, 1997*

One of the most dangerous things in the world is a writer who has finished writing for a while, has met his deadlines, and can now address other issues.

One such issue that has been nibbling at the back of my brainstem has been the *Babylon 5 Fan Club*. I've felt for some time that it was not living up to its potential, and has been laying fallow for some while.

The *Universe Today* newsletter was okay, but it could have been better.

The club was okay, but could have been better.

Okay is never sufficient. We either move forward or we fall back, there is no such thing as holding position. Especially with the fan club, because as a fan myself, I have to feel that people are getting their money's worth out of the club, and frankly, I'm not sure they have been.

Now that I have time to turn my attention to the problem . . .

A number of changes have been made to improve the situation for the current members, and for future members.

1) We are going to substantially improve Universe Today and get it out on schedule. To facilitate this, we are announcing that Mike Zmuda, publisher of ***The Centaurian Sentinel***, probably the best of the B5 fanzines out there, has been made editor of the newsletter. Sandra Bruckner, publisher of the *Zocalo*, has been named co-editor. Both begin work effective May 1st.

Knowing the great work these two have performed individually, we have every anticipation that their combined efforts on *Universe Today* will make it the sort of publication we've always wanted it to be.

2) Sandra has also agreed to take over as website administrator for thestation.com, maintaining it and improving it and updating it as circumstances warrant. The *B5 Fan Club* Web site has also been wandering a bit, and this will correct that problem.

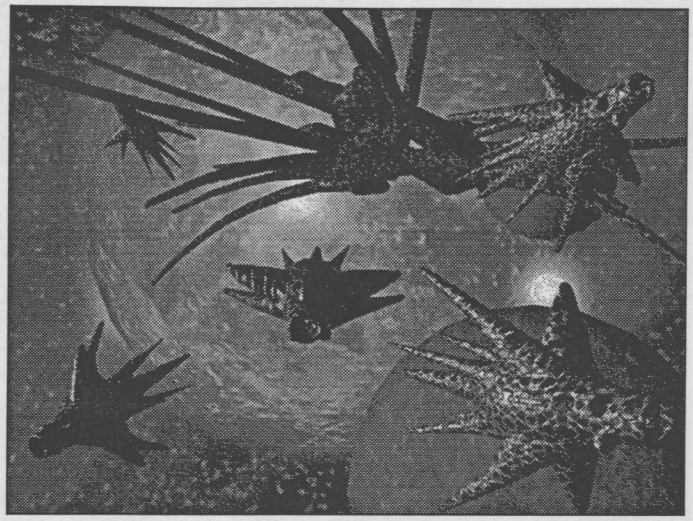
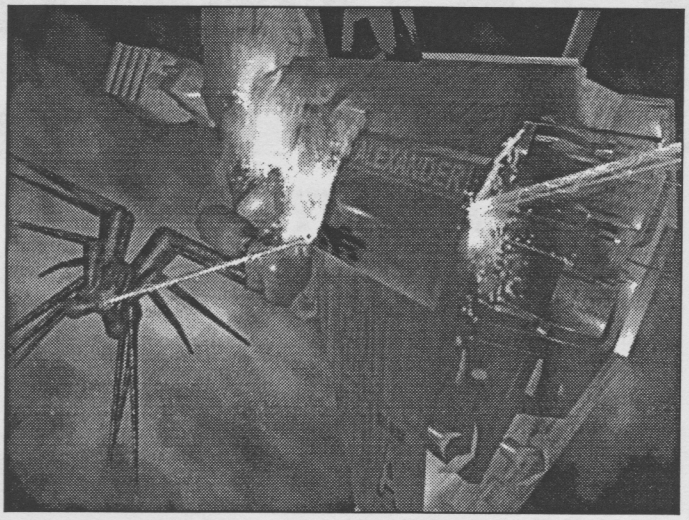
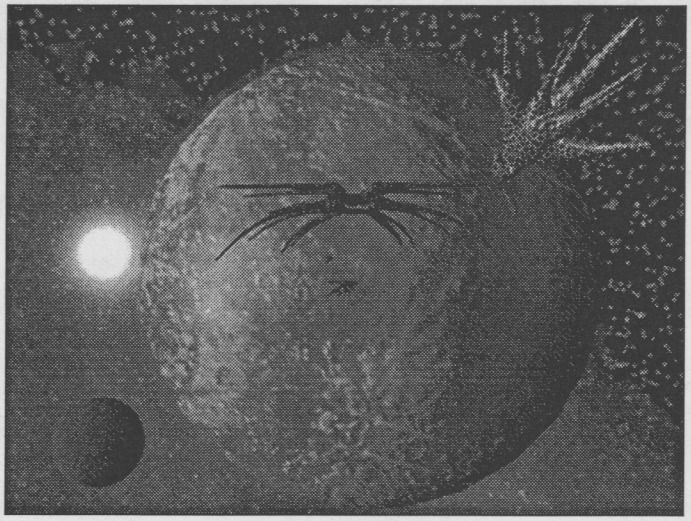
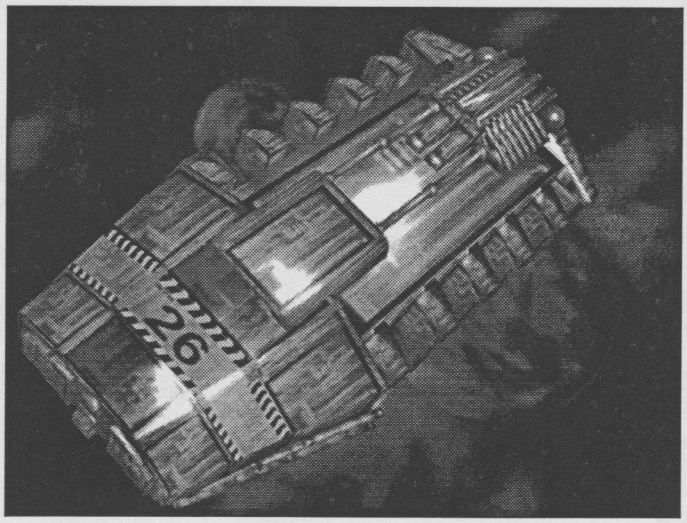
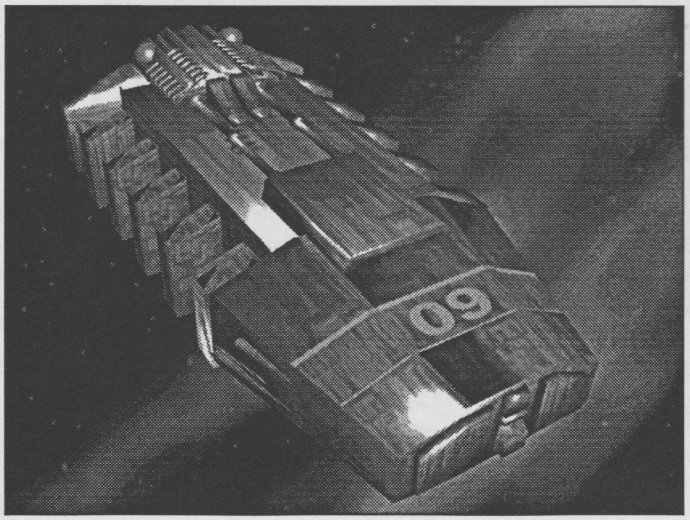
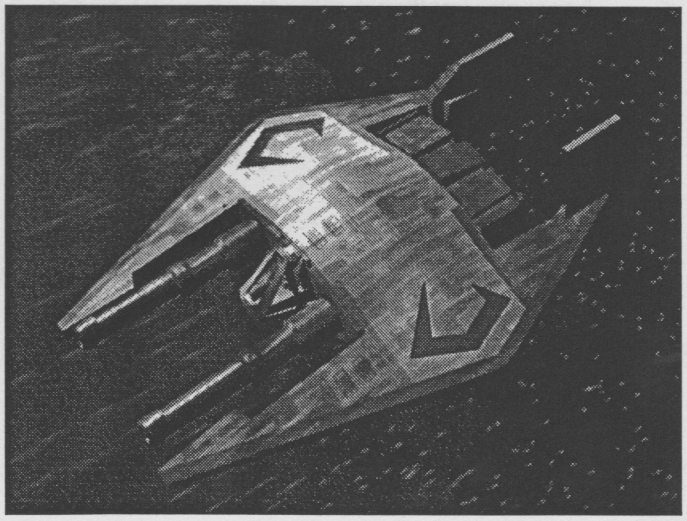
3) Jim Lockett, founding head of the *B5 Fan Club*, has moved on to other projects, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

4) A more assertive position will be taken in promoting the club at conventions, in advertisements, and in developing merchandise specific to the fan club.

5) Finally, because of my sense that the members of the Fan Club have not gotten all that they could have out of the club during its debut, we are going to ROLL OVER ALL YEAR ONE MEMBERSHIPS to a second year. If you joined prior to April 1, 1997, you are automatically comp'd in as a member for a second year without charge. Doug and I will personally swallow the expense of that.

It is our desire that the *Official Babylon 5 Fan Club* should be the best entity of its kind ever created. Now that we have made some mid-course corrections, we are back on track to becoming that. And we think you will approve of our plans for improving and expanding the operation as we move ahead over the rest of 1997.

**jms**

# SHIPS OF BABYLON 5 by Jonathan Curico

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